REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 8-10 have been added through this reply. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter included therein. Therefore, claims 2-10 are pending. Claims 2-3 and 6 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks a timely allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claim 6 is indicated as allowed. Applicants further appreciate that claims 2-3 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended indicated allowable claims 2 and 3 to each include all the features of independent claim 1. Thus, claims 2 and 3 are clearly allowable.

New dependent claims 8-10 have been added. New dependent claims 8-10 include similar features as found in original claims 4-5 and 7, respectively. New claims are allowable at least based on their dependency on allowable claim 3.

All rejected claims are either amended to include indicated allowable subject matter, dependent upon an allowable claim, or canceled. Thus, claims 2-10 are allowable.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 has been again objected to for an alleged typographical error. However, claim 7 contains **no typographical error, the term ITDMA is used correctly**. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to refer to page 4 line 19 to page 5 line 6 for support of an example of ITDMA. This section of the specification recites (emphasis added):

> *When the conflict avoidance means of the own station detects that the slot*
>
> *reserved for own transmission within the next SI in a current frame has been*

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*reserved by another station as well, the conflict avoidance means transmits a message indicating that the own station will re-reserve another slot for own transmission within the next SI in the current frame. This slot allocation operation is performed by using **Incremental Time Division Multiple Access (ITDMA) protocol.** While the **ITDMA protocol** is almost the same as the SOTDMA protocol, the former has a function of reserving slots in the current frame by specifying an offset slot number from the current slot position in the transmission message in addition to the function of reserving slot in the next frame.*

"ITDMA" is one of the commonly used technical terms for AIS, as described at the following URL: http://www.aisparser.com/sdk/structaismsg__3.html (hosted by http://www.aisparser.com/)

Further, the Examiner may also do a web search (*i.e.*, Google) to further confirm that the term "ITDMA" is not a typographical error.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All claims are either previously allowed, allowable based on remarks, amended to allowable format, or dependent upon an allowable claim, or canceled. Thus, claims 2-10 are allowable.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh, Reg. No. 62,278, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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